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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are currently amended, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by "Special Edition Using Microsoft Outlook 2000" (*Outlook*). Because each and every element of every claim is not taught by the cited reference as required by MPEP § 2131, the Examiner's § 102 rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

The present invention generally provides for a method for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying an activity window having activity description data, activity start data, activity duration data, and activity status data;
- (b) defining an activity in response to user selection of a define activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window and the defined activity includes an activity description, a start time, a duration, and a status;
- (c) determining the status for the defined activity based on the start time for the defined activity and the duration for the defined activity; and
- (d) automatically acquiring background information relevant to the defined activity including automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period, parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components thereof, querying a plurality of sources across a network to obtain the background information, and receiving the background information in response to querying the plurality of sources.

Because the *Outlook* reference does not teach or suggest every element of every claim, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

- (a) The Reference Fails to Teach Automatically Obtaining the Activity Description When the Start Time is Within a Predetermined Period

Claims 1-20 require, *inter alia*, "automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period." Specifically, the claimed step of "automatically acquiring background information" includes various steps, one of which is "automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period." *Outlook* fails to teach or suggest at least this limitation, as required by MPEP § 2131.

This feature of the present claimed invention provides the user with valuable information with which to prepare for an upcoming meeting that is identified by the activity data field.

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Moreover, the step of obtaining the activity description occurs in an automated fashion based on timing; namely, once the start time is close—i.e., “within a predetermined period” of the activity start time—the activity description is automatically obtained. Additionally, the start time is not an arbitrary moment in time, but rather it is included in the activity start data. Thus, considering these claim limitations as a whole, the present claimed invention usefully determines when the start time is near and then initiates the automated process of acquiring background information relating to the activity.

The cited reference clearly fails to teach the totality of the claims. In contrast, *Outlook* merely describes creating “Tasks.” Nowhere does the reference describe automatically acquiring background information as claimed.

For at least these reasons, the cited reference and the art of record fail to teach every element of claims 1-20, and Applicants respectfully request that Examiner’s § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

(b) The Reference Fails to Teach Parsing and Pattern Matching the Activity Description

The present claimed invention further recites, *inter alia*, “parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components of the activity description.” Specifically, these steps of parsing and pattern matching are included in the step of acquiring background information. *Outlook* clearly fails to teach or suggest this additional limitation, as required by MPEP § 2131; *Outlook* includes no discussion of parsing or pattern matching.

For this additional reason, the cited reference and the art of record fail to teach every element of claims 1-20, and Applicants respectfully request that Examiner’s § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (612) 607-7386. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to

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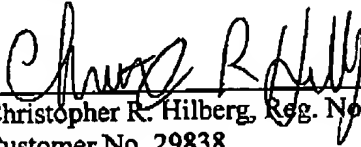
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charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901
(Reference 60021-356301).

Respectfully submitted,

By



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